



NEW MEXICO
OPPORTUNITY

What does this program entail?

- The New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship is a new program that will, in conjunction with existing state and federal scholarship and grant infrastructure, provide for 100 percent of tuition and fees at New Mexico institutions of higher education for in-state resident students.
- The scholarship will ensure full tuition and fee coverage for recent high school graduates at four-year public institutions as well as for recent high school graduates *and* returning adult learners at two-year community colleges

How does it work?

- The New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship covers any tuition and fees not paid for by the New Mexico Lottery Scholarship, which leaves an average unpaid tuition gap between 25 and 40 percent, depending on the institution.
- The New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship combines with the New Mexico Lottery Scholarship to pay for 100% of tuition and fees at New Mexico public institutions of higher education.

Has this been done before?

- New Mexico will be only the second state in the country, after New York, to establish tuition-free college.
- New Mexico will be the twenty-first state in the country to establish tuition-free two-year community college.

How is this program being paid for? What are the costs?

- Legislative appropriations. The cost is estimated to be \$25 to \$35 million.

Is it sustainable?

- Yes. New Mexico colleges and universities have historically kept tuition low. In the short term this will increase enrollment and student success. In the long term it will stimulate economic growth with a highly trained and highly compensated workforce, and all the benefits that follow.

How many students will this provide for?

- This program would benefit approximately 55,000 students per year. Almost 65% of New Mexico undergraduate students are in the highest quartile of financial need as determined by the federal undergraduate needs assessment results.

How many students will this provide for at each institution of higher learning?

NM Public Higher Education Institutions	Estimated Number Students Impacted
NM Tech	478
NMSU	4,694
UNM	9,006
ENMU	1,533
NMHU	1,148
NNMC	1,273
WNMU	698
ENMU-Roswell	1,548
ENMU-Ruidoso	417
NMSU-Alamogordo	697
NMSU-Carlsbad	972
NMSU-Dona Ana	5,662
NMSU-Grants	511
UNM-Gallup	1,293
UNM-Los Alamos	290
UNM-Taos	831
UNM-Valencia	1,093
Central NM CC	13,490
Clovis CC	1,768
Luna CC	707
Mesalands CC	443
NMJC	931
San Juan College	2,759
Santa Fe CC	2,683
Total / Average	54,924

What does this mean for each institution?

- Students will benefit because the additional financial resources will enable students to complete their education more quickly. The improved graduation rates will result in the receipt of more state funding to the colleges and universities to support their instructional budgets.

Which students are eligible?

- Eligible students must be in-state residents of New Mexico with a high school diploma or equivalency

Which institutions does this apply to?

- All of New Mexico's 29 public institutions of higher education

Can current students become retroactively eligible?

- Students cannot receive a retroactive benefit but may be eligible for tuition assistance in future semesters.

How do future students enroll or become eligible?

- After enrolling in a public, postsecondary institution, students apply for financial aid to access this scholarship.